The Conning Tower

TO A VERS LIBRIST

"O bard," I said, "your verse is free; The shackles that encumber me, The fetters that are my obsession, Are never gyves to your expression,

"The fear of falsities in rhyme, In metre, quantity or time, Is never yours; you sing along Your unpremeditated song.

"Correct," the young vers librist said. "Whatever pops into my head I write, and have but one small fetter: I start each line with a capital letter.

"But rhyme and metre-Ischkebibble!-Are actually negligible. I go ahead, like all my school, Without a single silly rule."

Of rhyme I am so reverential He made me feel inconsequential. I shed some strongly saline tears For bards I loved in younger years.

"If Keats had fallen for your fluff," I said. "he might have done good stuff. If Burns had thrown his rhymes away, His songs might still be sung to-day.' O bards of rhyme and metre-free,

My gratitude goes out to ye For all your deathless lines-ahem! Let's see, now . . . What is one of them?

If, as hinted, Burns had thrown his rhymes away, if he had been a vers librist, "John Anderson, My Jo" might have gone down through the anthologies in this manner:

John Anderson!

When first we were acquainted, Black as the raven were your locks,

Your forehead unwrinkled;

But now, John, your forehead is bald and your locks snowy-However, blessings on your frosty sconce,

"How about Whitman?" ask the vers libre fans, many of them over the telephone. Whitman, yes. Henley's "In Hospital," Francis Thompson, Coventry Patmore, some of Amy Lowell-yes. But the verse whose only quality of distinction is its unshackledness, whose matter is zero and whose manner is minus-no. Better, say we-but it sounds like a music cue. Ta-ra!

After deep deliberation on the subject, we have found, Better seven songs of Scollard than a ton of Ezra Pound.

The Imperial German Government says the Lusitania carried guns; the United States Government swears she did not. In 1908 John J. Evers swore that Fred Merkle did not touch second base; Merkle, McGraw and other Giants were ready with affidavits that he did. Why not leave the question of the Lusitania armament to Henry O'Day, whose decision in 1908 was wholly equitable?

THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS YOU! WANTED, by young Man, 26, work, anywhere; can kill, ride, drive four-inhand, handy with tools; good references. Box Z68, this Office.

Thus Mr. E. S. Martin, whom we assailed recently for cyriling his whoms, in "Life":

As to "whom", F. P. A. is probably right. The flirtation of "whom" with "suspected" probably caused the delinquent's ear to overlook "whom's" governing matrimonial relation with "was". But who knows? The good Yale Lounsbury is dead, and no one else would defend Martin. He probably knows no grammar. Language to him is

presumably just a succession of noises to be arranged so as to do the job and, if possible, attain a market.

But, after all, is there so much more than that to language, anyhow? To be grammatical is nothing; but to have attained to some degree of skill in the arrangement of noises is perhaps an achievement in art, and worth while, If the sounds, as arranged, comply with the expectations of grammar, so much the better, because, though mere compliance with grammar gets no one ahead much, violation of it excites prejudice which may defeat the ends of language. When using "whom", therefore, stop, look and listen, to be sure it is not the subject of some vindictive verb.

In our notice of Mr. Martin's "whom" we referred to him as a Yale alumnus. He is a Harvard man, as we should have known, just as Mr. Martin should have known his "whom." Up with fallibility, the vertebra of a colyum!

Information comes that Mr. Morgan sold the Equitable in order to get war funds. If that be so, did the payment of our premium violate our neutrality?

Comstock Says He Will Expose U. S. Officials,-Journal

To the open air? Think of "September Morn!"

RESPONSE ON RECEIVING THE TOWER'S HONORARY DEGREE.

My brothers-in-law are Ph. D.s, And L.L. D.s, and other Honorary Immensities! While I am-just their brother.

> Ah ha! I envy not their list Of letters, long and solemn! I've now an honor they have missed-'Twas printed in the Column.

> > I read it once, I read it twice, (I read it every hour); And all my friends I now entice To con the Conning Tower. . . .

Where Kathleen Norris, C. H. Towne ('Tis pity 'tis 'tis odd!), Shared the proud Column's Laureate Crown With (thanks!)-

LEE WILSON DODD.

Perhaps we are too soft hearted, but a sight yesterday afterhoom of a set of \$5 "white fox" summer furs drenched by rain made us almost want to cry.

Desire you a restful summer? Try a vacation at Sleepy Eye, Minn.; Napa, Cal., or Dedham, Mass.

"The man who really NEEDS nothing," says the Evening, in a manner of speaking, Journal, "cannot really ENJOY any-

Ah, Mr. Brisbane, have you ever NEEDED a last line? And when it has arrived, putting your needs at nil, have you felt that you couldn't really ENJOY anything?

With us, that's when Enjoyment begins.

OLD NASSAU HONORS THE WIZARD AND THE CANAL BUILDER ANTI-TRUST LAW

EDISON, HERRICK, **GOETHALS GIVEN** PRINCETON HONOR

T. N. Vail and President Richmond of Union Also Get Degrees.

NASSAU GRADUATES LARGEST CLASS, 277

Gifts of \$245,000 Announced at University's 168th Commencement.

Princeton, N. J., June 15 - Acalumni and friends, Thomas A. Edison, General George W. Goethals and Myren T. Herrick received honorary degrees from Princeton University to-

It was Princeton's 168th commence ment, and the university graduated the largest class in its history 277. The degree of Bachelor of Arts was con-ferred upon 111, that of Bachelor of Letters upon 112, thirty-one became Bachelors of Science and twenty-three civil engineers.

President John Grier Hibben during the commencement exercises announced a gift of \$125,000 from Mrs. William Church Osborn, of New York, to found the Dodge professorship of mediewal history; \$100,000 from an anonymous source to found a professorship in economics, \$15,000 from members of the board of trustees for current expenses, \$5,000 from Archibald D. Russell for the observatory research fund, and the completion of the fund needed to assure Mrs. Russell Sage's gift. civil engineers. President John Grier Hibben during

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LIFE IN HANDS OF HIGH COURT

Usefulness of Sherman Act To Be Determined in Cases Pending.

MANY DEFEATS FOR GOVERNMENT

FOR GOVENMENT

Cash Register Decision Likely to Have Farreaching Effect

On Public.

Washington, June 13—Reviewing twenty-five years of trust prosecutions. We was year of trust prosecutions by the Federal courts of the Sherman anti-trust law. We will play, to the evening of June 30 Mer. A print Trainer, who was a manual Freshingham, returned to New York, and As New York, and As New York, and As New York, and As New York, and Mer. A print Trainer, who was the contrainer of interpretations by the Federal courts of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived at the No. York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived to New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived to New York, arrived to New York, arrived at the Againese of the Sherman anti-trust law. New York, arrived to New York

Harbor, where they will remain until

Mr. and Mrs. L. Stuart Wing have closed their house, 6 West Forty-eighth Street, and have gone to Roslyn-Long Island, for the summer.

Mrs. DeLancey Nicoll will sail for Europe on board the Philadelphia on July 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Roosevelt will go to their country place at Skaneau eles, N. Y., to-day for the summer.

PLAN MUSICAL AT LENOX Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Walker to Entertain on June 24.

[Hy Telegraph to The Tribune,] Lenox, June 15.-Mr. and Mrs. Wills iam Hall Walker have issued invitations for a musicale at Brookside on June 24, when Harry Rows Shelley, of

F. P. A.